

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device including a network interface for ~~communicating participating in a network connection~~ with a second device via a network connection carried over physical link that includes equipment for terminating said ~~network connection~~ if said ~~network connection~~ remains idle according a predefined time-out ~~criteria~~criterion of said equipment;
said device configured to send keep-alive signals on said connection;
said device configured to send said keep-alive signals according to a plurality of different time intervals operable to determine said predefined time-out ~~criteria~~criterion of said equipment.
2. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said electronic device is further ~~operable~~configured to determine when one of said time intervals results in said equipment terminating said connection thereby determining said predetermined time-out criterion of said equipment ~~to send keep-alive signals according to said determined criteria in order to reduce dropped connections by said equipment and reducing overall traffic carried over said link.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2 wherein said electronic device is configured to request connection is an HTTP web-page via said connection ~~being requested by said first electronic device of said second electronic device and said keep-alive signal is a no-op signal.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said equipment is a NAT router.

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 1 wherein said ~~criteria~~criterion is a predefined time period.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic device of claim 5 wherein said electronic device determines said predefined time period by:

establishing said connection with an initial default time period;
sending a keep-alive signal to said second device once during said time period;
increasing said time period if said time period does not cause said connection to be dropped then repeating said sending step; and
maintaining a last-known good time period if said time period does cause said connection to be dropped;
~~and then reestablishing said connection; and returning to said sending step; and~~
thereafter,
~~sending keep-alive signals during which said device sends keep-alive signals to said second electronic device based on said last-known good time period, and~~
~~varying said time period sending keep-alive signals over said connection during said time period for each iteration until said time period causes said equipment to terminate said connection.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic device according to claim 6 wherein said electronic device is a client, said second device is a web-server and at least a portion of said link includes the Internet.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic device according to claim 7 wherein said client is battery operated and said time periods are increased more quickly as said battery life is depleted to thereby reduce battery consumption while determining said predefined time period.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic device according to claim 8 wherein said client is a wireless device and at least a portion of said link includes a wireless connection from said wireless device to the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a network connection comprising the steps of:

- loading a time-out ~~criteria~~ period into a first electronic device of an initial default value;
- establishing a connection from said first electronic device to a second electronic device via a physical link that includes equipment for terminating said connection if said connection remains idle for a predefined time-out period;
- sending keep-alive signals from one said electronic device to ~~the other said~~ second electronic device via said equipment according to said time-out ~~criteria~~ period;
- increasing said time-out ~~criteria~~ period and repeating said sending step; and,
- repeating said increasing step until said connection is terminated by said equipment in order to determine said time-out period;
- fixing said time period to a value less than said determined time-out period;
- ~~-and thereafter performing said sending said keep-alive signals step using said~~ time period established at said fixing step. ~~a known good time-out criteria.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said ~~at least one~~ least known ~~fixing step is performed by time-out criteria is determined by iteratively~~ decreasing said time period ~~out criteria~~ until said connection is no longer terminated by said equipment.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said connection carries ~~is an~~ HTTP web-page being requested by said first electronic device of said second electronic device and said keep-alive signal is a no-op signal.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein said equipment is a NAT router.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said first electronic device is a client, said second device is a web-server and at least a portion of said link includes the Internet.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein said client electronic device is battery operated and said increasing step is based on larger intervals when said battery life is approaching depletion.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 wherein said client electronic device is a wireless device and at least a portion of said link includes a wireless connection from said wireless device to the Internet.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a set of programming instructions; said programming instructions executable on ~~for an~~ electronic device; when executed on said electronic device, said programming instructions configured to render said electronic device operable to: ~~the set of~~ instructions comprising the steps of:
loading a time-out period ~~criteria~~ into said electronic device of an initial default value;
establishing a connection from said electronic device to a second electronic device via a physical link that includes equipment for terminating said connection if said connection remains idle for a predefined time-out period;
sending keep-alive signals from said electronic device to said second electronic device according to said time-out period ~~criteria~~;
increasing said time-out period ~~criteria~~ and repeating said sending step; and,
repeating said increasing step until said connection is terminated by said equipment in order to determine said time-out period;
fix said time period to a value less than said determined time-out period;
and thereafter performing said sending keep-alive signals step using said time period as fixed, a known good time-out criteria.